

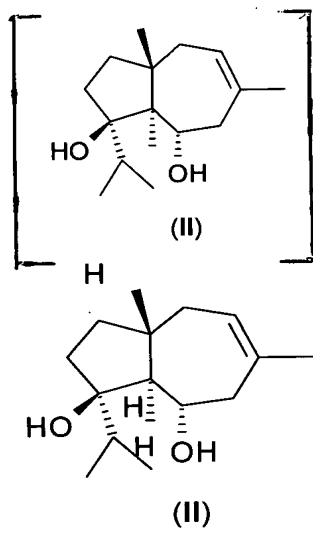
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Before the heading FIELD OF THE INVENTION on page 1, line 1, insert the following paragraph:

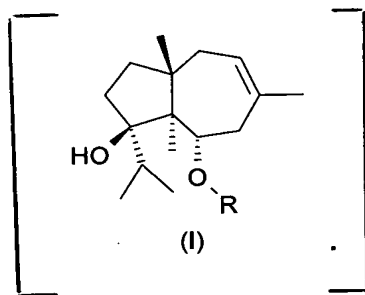
--This application is a 371 application of PCT EP04/03005, filed March 23, 2005.--

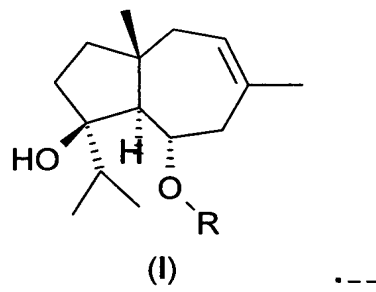
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The most abundant compounds in *Ferula* genus plants are derivatives of jaeschkenadiol (**II**):



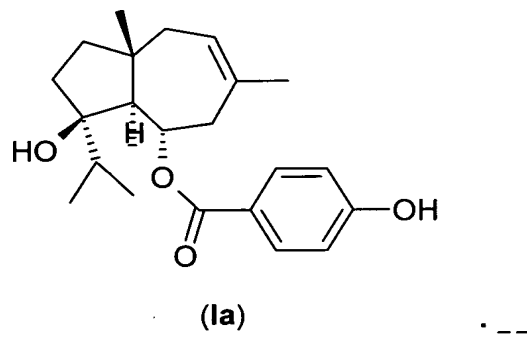
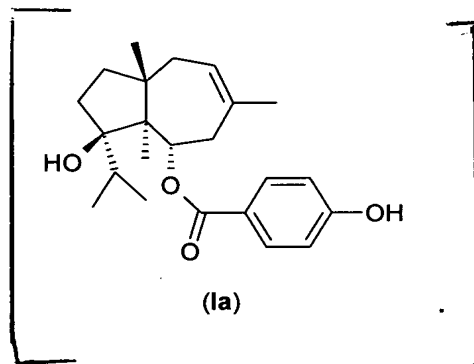
in particular daucane esters having the general formula (**I**)





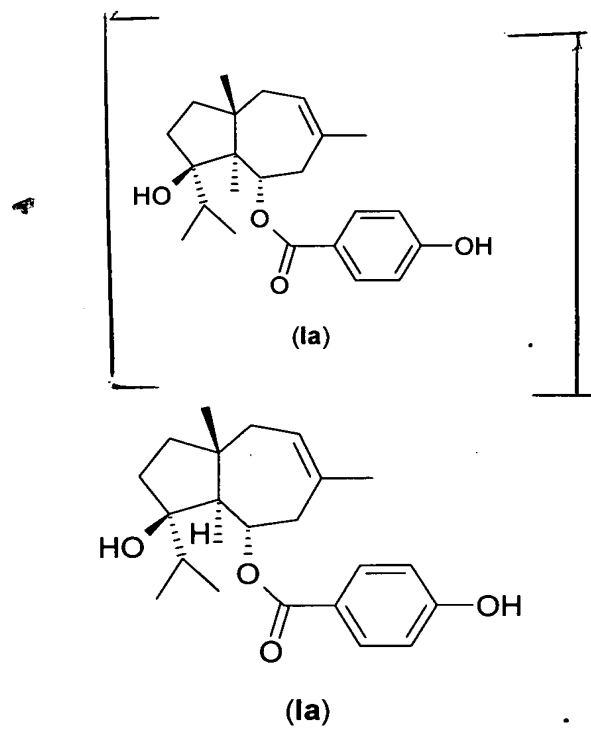
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Daucane esters from *Ferula spp* are estrogen modulators similar to SERMs (selective estrogen receptor modulators); among them, ferutinine (**Ia**) shows marked estrogenic activity, whereas the others have a rather mild activity.



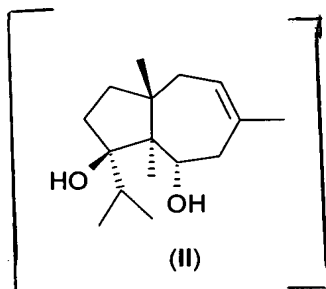
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

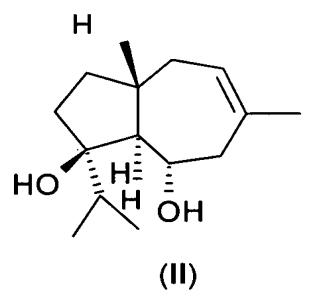
--Object of the present invention is therefore a
process for the preparation of ferutinine (**Ia**)



which comprises the following steps:

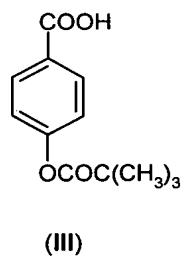
- extraction of daucane esters from *Ferula spp*;
 - basic hydrolysis of daucane esters to give jaeschkenadiol
- (II)





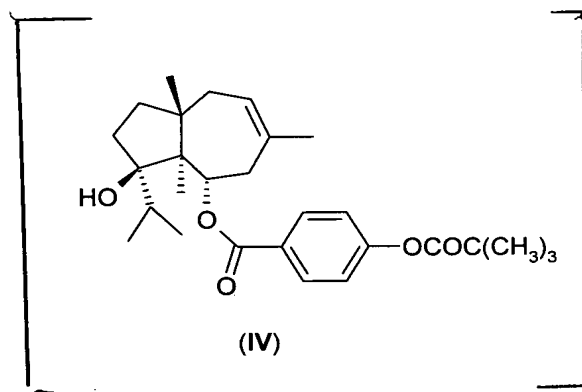
;

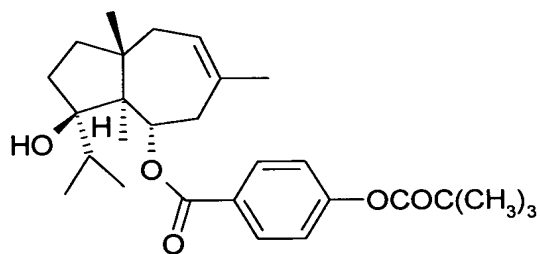
c) esterification of jaeschkenadiol (II) with *p*-pivaloyloxybenzoic acid (III)



;

to give *p*-pivaloylferutinine (IV)





(IV) _____;

d) hydrolysis of *p*-pivaloylferutinine (IV) to ferutinine.--